

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing help to people with disabilities, comprising the steps:

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- a) organizing a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device;
 - b) establishing a first database identifying and having information about ~~the~~ a plurality of people with disabilities and ~~about the volunteers, said information identifying (1)~~ for each of the persons with disabilities, identifying at least one specific disability said person has[,]; and (2) establishing a second database identifying a plurality of volunteers, and for each of the volunteers, identifying at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;
 - c) after the first and second databases are established at least one of the persons with disabilities, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and
 - d) ~~matching at least one of the volunteers with said at least one of the persons with disabilities in response to said request, using a matching server to use information from the pre-established first and second databases to match the person making the request with at least one of the volunteers~~ by finding, through said database, one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and said at least one of the volunteers receiving the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

step (c) includes the step of one of the persons with disabilities using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help to the network;

~~further comprising the step of the network searching the information in the database to match one of the volunteers with said request; and~~

step (d) includes the step of the network identifying said one of the persons with disabilities to said one of the volunteers via one of the wireless communications devices.

B1 3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of, the volunteers providing at least one service selected from the group comprising:

i) reading a newspaper or other information to a blind person,

ii) translating a conversation into sign language, and

iii) bringing requested items to one of the persons with disabilities.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of using a global positioning system to identify the location of said one of the persons with disabilities, and to identify one or more of the volunteers in the vicinity of said one of the persons with disabilities.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the matching step includes the step of:

using a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;
sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;
interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and
sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for providing help to people with disabilities, comprising:
a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device; and
a first database identifying and having information about the a plurality of people with disabilities and about the volunteers, said information identifying (1) for each of the persons with disabilities, identifying at least one specific disability said person has[,] and (2) establishing a second database identifying a plurality of volunteers, and for each of the volunteers, identifying at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;
at least one of the persons with disabilities after the first and second databases are established, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and
~~matching at least one of the volunteers with said at least one of the persons with disabilities a~~
matching server to use information from the first and second pre-established databases, in response to said request, to match the person making the request with at least one of the
volunteers by finding, through said database, one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and said at least one of the volunteers receiving the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 7, wherein:

one of the persons with disabilities uses one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help to the network;

the network includes

~~i) means for searching the information in the database to match one of the volunteers with said request, and~~

ii) means for identifying said one of the persons with disabilities to said one of the volunteers via one of the wireless communications devices.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 8, wherein the volunteers provide at least one service selected from the group comprising:

i) reading a newspaper or other information to a blind person,

ii) translating a conversation into sign language, and

iii) bringing requested items to one of the persons with disabilities.

10. (Original) A system according to Claim 8, further comprising a global positioning system to identify the location of said one of the persons with disabilities, and to identify one or more of the volunteers in the vicinity of said one of the persons with disabilities.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 8, wherein the matching means includes:

a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;

means for sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;

means for interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and

means for sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

13. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing help to people with disabilities, said method steps comprising:

a) organizing a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device;

b) establishing a first database identifying and having information about the a plurality of people with disabilities and ~~about the volunteers, said information identifying (1)~~ for each of the persons with disabilities, identifying at least one specific disability said person has[,]; and (2) establishing a second database identifying a plurality of volunteers, and for each of the volunteers, identifying at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;

c) after the first and second databases are established, at least one of the persons with disabilities, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and

d) ~~matching at least one of the volunteers with said at least one of the persons with disabilities in~~ response to said request, using a matching server to use information from the pre-established first and second databases to match the person making the request with at least one of the volunteers by finding,

through said database, one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and said at least one of the volunteers receiving the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

14. (Currently Amended) A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein:

step (c) includes the step of one of the persons with disabilities using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help to the network;

~~further comprising the step of the network searching the information in the database to match one of the volunteers with said request; and~~

step (d) includes the step of the network identifying said one of the persons with disabilities to said one of the volunteers via one of the wireless communications devices.

15. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein said method steps further comprise the step of, the volunteers providing at least one service selected from the group comprising:

- i) reading a newspaper or other information to a blind person,
- ii) translating a conversation into sign language, and
- iii) bringing requested items to one of the persons with disabilities.

16. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein said method steps further comprise the step of using a global positioning system to identify the location of said one of the persons with disabilities, and to identify one or more of the volunteers in the vicinity of said one of the persons with disabilities.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A program storage devie device according to Claim 14, wherein the searching step includes the step of:

using a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;

sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;

interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and

sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.